Delay in clearance of projects by the Ministry of Environment and Forests

*177. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE; Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clearance by the Ministry of Enviornment and Forests for W.R. project consume lot of time on account of lengthy prcedures which are required to be followed and collection of a number of unnecessary details; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to simplify the procedure to avoid such delay?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILA-MANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All projects submitted with complete environmental details and action plans are decided within a maximum period of three months. Delays may occur entirely due to nonsubmission of requisite environmental plans by the project authorities.

Detailed guidelines have been available with the project authorities since 1978 to facilitate collection and submission of environmental data and action plans. Setiing up of environmental cells in the development agencies has been recommended so that the environmental aspects can be planned right at the project inception stage.

National convention on growth with employment

*178. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had inaugurated a national convention on 'Growth with Employment' on June 28, 199 organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, what were the main observations and suggestions made therein for ensuring employment oriented growth; and

(c) what steps have been taken and are being taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. *(See* below)

(c) Suggestions made in the convention would be kept in view while finalising the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Statement

FICCI had prepared a Background Paper for the National Convention organised by them on 28-6-1990, which contained some observations on growth with employment. The speech of the President, FICCI at the Convention also contained certain suggestions on the subject. The conslusions of the Paper are indicated below;

With the suggeested emphasis on growth as well as employment, there will be distinct improvement in India's socioeconomic conditions. For instance, the thrust on development of sectors like irrigation, small scale industries, house construction and services will result in direct employment to 47.1 million persons during he Eighth Plan. The investment in village and small industries and services sector will help build up productive assets which will create job opportunities even beyond.

The employment of 47.1 million persons during the Eighth Plan will require investment of Rs. 2,99,190 crores or 43.8 per cent of total investment of Rs. 6,882.948 crores which has been envisaged in the Paper in order to achieve an annual growth of 7 per cent in GNP. The investment of balance of Rs. 3,83,758 crores in other sectors will al-

so create employment opportunities through the extent of employment generation in these sectors will not be the same as in irrigation, services, village and small industries and house construction largely because their primarily being capital intensive.

The overall increase in employment with the proposed investment and growth will thus be substantial. With this, it would be possiblue to provide a near solution to the problem of unemployment and thereby improve per capita income of people and reduce social tensions in the economy.

The suggested emphasis on growth, on the. other hand will help stabilise prices which would have been disturbed with increase in purchasing power due to larger employment unaccompanied by corresponding grdowth of national output.

The thrust on higher growth will help resolve yet another major problem confronting Indian economy, viz., adverse balance of payments. Its improvement would largely depend on acceleration of the growth of exports and substitution of imports, wherever economically viable.

The emphasis on larger foreign direct investment to supplement domestic resources will relieve pressure on balance of payment as well. This is largely because such nvestment, besides bringing in financial resources, facilitates transfer of the latest techonology and promotion of exports.

The development that is envisaged broadly in two streams will thus secure a balance between growth and employment. This is vitally necessary today.

In bis inaugural address, the P.M. emphasised the urgent need to pay attention to increasing the rate of growth of employment instead of focusing attention only on growth of GDP and outlined the steps being taken by the Government with this objective in view. The Approach to the Eighth Plan sought to link employment generation to the pattern of growth. Productive employment would be promoted in Eighth Plan by improving the pattern of growth which is widely distributed and which encourages absorption of labour. The target will be to achieve on an average a 3 per cent annual rate of increase in employment over the next decade. Faster growth of agriculture and its diversification encouragement of agro processing and rural based industries, promotion of industrial growth with harmonious balance between large, medium and small sector with special protection to the genuinely small scale setcor etc., would promote productive employment in rural and urban areas. Steps would be taken to ensure that 50 per cent of plan resources are allocated for agriculture, rural development and related sectors Decision making will be decentralised to the panchayats to ensure effective use of additional rseources made available to rural areas. The removal of investment allowance along with lowering of corporate taxes in the budget presented by the Government would help in removing biases towards capital intensity and the shift in investment resources to the rural areas would lead to demand pelterns that are likely to be more labour intensive leading in turn to a change in the composition of industrial growth away from highly capital intensive sectors towards more intensive sectors.

Entrance examination for Civil Services Professional Courses

*179. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students with best academic performance are entering into professional courses and those who are unsucessful in their bid to enter professional courses are entering civil services; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to conduct entrance examination